

fluctuating during last 5 years as may be seen from the figures given below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Production (in lakh Tonnes)</i>
1996-97	142.44
1997-98	129.79
1998-99	148.91
1999-2000	133.50
2000-2001	110.60

For increasing the production and productivity of pulses in the country, a Centrally sponsored scheme NPDP is under implementation in 30 States/U.T. The scheme envisage financial assistance to the State for production and distribution of seed, seed minikits, rhizobium culture, sprinkler sets, improved farirj, implements etc. In addition, field demonstration and farmers training are also being organised for transfer of improved production and protection technology to the farmers field for increasing the production of pulses in the country.

Floods in Orissa

1376. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether floods in Orissa this year were worse than those in 1982, as these affected more than 40 lakh people, more than 5 lakh marooned, 7200 villages flooded and level of water at the Hirakund reservoir is rising consistently;

(b) whether Orissa Government has sent as SOS. to the Centre for an ad-hoc finance assistance of Rs. 200 crore as flood situation is worsening and death toll climbing to 31; and

(c) if so, whether Centre propose to give more financial aid and also relax the overdraft norms in case of Orissa?

[3 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Government have reported that the recent floods affected a population of 87 lakhs in more than 16,000 villages in 24 districts and resulted in loss of about 95 human lives and affected crop area in 8.90 lakh ha. and damage to 2.33 lakh houses.

(b) the State Government has initially requested for an immediate assistance of Rs. 200 crore.

(c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including floods. The Central Government, however, supplements the efforts of the States. A High Level Delegation led by the then Agriculture Minister visited Orissa on 19th July, 2001 for an aerial survey and review of the situation. Later, Prime Minister also visited Orissa on 29th July, 2001 for an on the spot assessment of the flood situation. The Army, Air Force and Navy have assisted the State Government in rescue and evacuation and air-dropping of relief material. An immediate adhoc assistance of Rs. 100 crore has been released from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). The over draft of Rs. 220 crore was also earlier cleared to enable the State to undertake relief measures. Prime Minister has announced release of 3 lakh tonnes of rice for Food for Work Programme and construction of one lakh units of houses under Indira Awas Yojana for below poverty line families. The Ministries of Railways, Road Transport & Highways and Power have taken action for restoration of rail, roads and power supply. A Team of the Union Health Ministry has visited Orissa and are in touch with the State Government to ensure that no epidemic breaks out. Action for revival of kharif crops has also been initiated.